

**Columbia River Toxics Reduction Working Group  
Summary of February 7, 2008 Meeting  
Hosted by USGS, Portland, OR**

**Participants**

Helen Rueda, USEPA  
Lyndal Johnson, NOAA  
Jennifer Morace, USGS  
Jay Davis, USFWS  
Mike Karnosh, Grand Ronde  
John Piccininni, BPA  
Jim Ruff, NPPC  
Larry Caton, ODEQ  
Robert Anderson, NOAA  
Lorraine Edmond, USEPA  
Steve Waste, NPPC  
Mike Cox, EPA  
Rachel Pecore, Columbia Riverkeeper  
Aron Bordic, EI  
Rose Longdria, Yakama Nation  
Don Steffeck, USFWS  
John Gear, ORDOE  
Steve Sauder, BPA  
Aaron Borisenko, ODEQ  
Chuck Henny, USGS  
Tom Downey, CTSI  
Greg Pettit, ODEQ  
Tracie Nadeau, EPA

Ashley Kaiser, URS  
Greg Fuhrer, USGS  
Dave McBride, WADOH  
Jill Leary, LCREP  
Jeremy Buck, USFWS  
Kevin Masterson, ODEQ  
Mark Siipola, USACE  
Nancy Kohn, Battelle  
Socorro Rodriguez, USEPA  
Agnes Lut, ODEQ  
Mary Lou Soscia, USEPA  
James Thomas, Yakama Nation  
Joanne LaBaw, EPA  
Elena Nilsen, USGS  
Joe Rinella, USGS  
Laura Buelow, USEPA  
Tim Sherman, USACE  
Keith Seiders, WADOE  
Andrew Kolosseus, WADOE  
Tina de la Fuente, Columbia Riverkeeper  
Linda Tlokasin-Orr, IHS  
Krista Jones, LCREP  
Patti Howard, CRITFC

**Introductions and Welcome**

Greg Fuhrer and Mike Cox welcomed everyone to the meeting. Thank you Greg, Jennifer, and Elena for hosting.

**Updates**

Rachael Pecore of Columbia River Keepers indicated that they have obtained funding from other NGO partners to do some toxic monitoring and would welcome ideas regarding McNary Dam to Willamette reach sampling.

John Gear of Oregon Dept of Energy encouraged participation in scoping of EIS for Black Rock Water Storage Reservoir. The reservoir is located up gradient from Hanford site and he noted the potential effects to groundwater in Hanford Reservation

Mary Lou Soscia of USEPA distributed a handout "Request for Recommendations to Amend the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's *Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program*" (Council Doc. # 2007-17). The NPCC is seeking comments/recommendations on their fish and wildlife program. During this amendment process there is an opportunity for states, tribes, and other partners to recommend a greater emphasis on water quality and toxics issues. The deadline for comments has been extended to April 04, 2008. Please contact Mary Lou for more information.

## **Presentations (Presentations will be available on the EPA CR Website)**

### Status of monitoring efforts:

Lorraine Edmond of USEPA and Agnes Lut of ODEQ discussed EPA REMAP/RARE-funded monitoring which will commence in the summer of 2008 in the Mid-Columbia and tributaries. They stressed the need to build on lower Columbia River (LCR) studies and for continued coordinated monitoring in the LCR. They discussed the overall design of the studies which will include assessment of tributary loading, toxics in the water column and fish tissue, and relation to human health.

Jennifer Morace of USGS discussed a USGS study focused on the LCR from Glenn Jackson Bridge to the Beaver Army Terminal. The sampling—which will look at PBDE flame retardants, emerging contaminants, and food web interactions—will include numerous sites and test for a host of contaminants and species as well as continue to expand existing osprey studies.

### State of the River Report for Toxics

Mary Lou Soscia of USEPA provided the status on the State of the River Report and along with Greg Fuhrer of USGS led a discussion on the future “vision” for the CR Basin Toxics Reduction Strategy. Several comments were received and the paper will be revised accordingly.

### Mercury contamination in Owyhee and Upper Snake Rivers

Helen Rueda of USEPA discussed mercury deposition in Snake River Basin. She provided background information with examples from several areas of the Snake River and provided an overview of fish tissue data and sources of deposition.

### Toxics and Osprey in the Lower Columbia

Chuck Henny of USGS discussed contaminants in osprey in the Columbia River Basin. He proposed osprey as an ideal sentinel species (e.g., worldwide distribution, piscivorous nature, tolerance), and provided data on increased nesting sites and contaminant information including increased Hg in eggs and reduction in DDT.

### Washington Toxics Monitoring: Results from Fish Tissue Sampling in 2004-05

Keith Seiders of WADOE discussed Monitoring Toxic Contaminants in Washington Freshwater Fish. He provided results of monitoring for several years throughout Washington with emphasis on the Columbia River Basin.

### Pollution in People

Renee Hackenmiller-Paradis of Oregon Environmental Council discussed their recent report on “Pollution in People”. She provided an overview of the testing for several contaminants in 10 Oregonians from different backgrounds. These contaminants included PCBs, organophosphates, phthalates, bisphenol-a, mercury, and PFC. She noted the small sample size limited the interpretation of the exposure pathway but that the study increased public awareness and discussed possible solutions.

## **Next Steps**

- Next meeting will be up the river in the Hood River, OR vicinity in mid-June.
- EPA will put summary of meeting and presentations on EPA website.
- EPA will share draft State of the River report once it is ready for review.
- Please provide comments on the Toxics Reduction Strategy “future vision” to Mary Lou by February 22.